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INGERSOLL, E.—Personal Recollections of the Utes. *Good Company*, March–April, pp. 8.

MORSE, PROF. E. S.—Prehistoric Man in America. *Kansas City Rev.*, June, 1881, p. 90.

TYLOR, E. B.—Anthropology: an Introduction to the Study of Man and Civilization. N. York, D. Appleton & Co. 1 vol., pp. 448, 78 illus., 12mo.

VERNEAU, D. R.—The Black Races of Oceanica. *Pop. Sc. Month.*, April, pp. 9.

## GEOGRAPHY AND TRAVELS.[1]

GEOGRAPHICAL NEWS.—A meeting of representatives of all the German geographical societies, was held at the rooms of the Berlin Society, on the 7th and 8th of June last. Dr. Nachtigal, President of the latter society, was in the chair. In his opening speech Dr. Nachtigal gave some account of the efforts made to form a union of the various geographical societies of the Empire. They include now about 4000 members. A plan of coöperation under the control of an executive body at Berlin, and including the publication of a journal, had been proposed, but met with too much opposition, and was therefore abandoned. Annual meetings for the reading of papers and discussions, was all that could be decided upon at present. At this meeting papers were presented, 1. On the Ways and Means of investigating the condition of the Earth's Center, by Professor Zöppritz [Professor of Geography at the University of Königsberg]; 2. On the Bermudas and their Coral Reefs, by Professor Rein [Professor of Geography at the University of Marburg], founded on observations made by the author during a two years' residence on the islands; 3 On the importance of Magnetic Researches, from the point of view of geography and the study of the earth generally, by Dr. Neumayer [Director of the Imperial German Marine Observatory at Hamburg]; 4. On the Claims of Ethnography, by Dr. Bastian [Director of the Ethnographical Museum at Berlin]; 5. On the Forms of German Houses viewed geographically and historically, by Professor Meitzen [Professor of Statistics at the University of Berlin]; 6. On the Results of earlier Travels with regard to the Botany of Tripoli and the Libyan Desert, by Professor Ascherson [Professor of Botany at the University of Berlin]. An animated discussion on the subject of geographical teaching in the schools took place, leading to the adoption of the following resolutions: "That a combination of geographical with historical instruction led to the injury and neglect of all school teaching; that even if geography is viewed as the only subject which connects physical science and mathematics with history, it should be joined with physical science in the instruction of the upper classes of schools; and lastly, that geography in the Government examinations of teachers, should be admitted as a separate science, and also as an accessory subject assisting to an important degree various other branches of learning." Professor Wagner, of Göttingen, advocated the sketching of maps, and especially the rapid delineation of the main features of a country, its ranges of mountains, rivers, etc., as the chief aids in the study of geography, which ought, therefore, to be under the charge of the physical and mathematical teachers, whose sense of form and skill in drawing was far better developed than in teachers of philological and historical subjects.——Dr. Neis, a surgeon in the French navy, has recently made a journey in Indo-China, and discovered the source of the Dong-nai River in 12° 30′ N. lat., 108° 25′ 15″ E. long.——In describing Dr. Heath's recent discoveries on the Beni, as mentioned in the NATURALIST for June, the Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society says: "As Dr. Heath claims to have been the first white man to see the mouth of the Madre de Dios, it may be interesting to remind our readers that in a paper[1] read before the society on February 25, 1867, our honorary corresponding member, Professor Raimondi, informed us that in March, 1861, Don Faustino Maldonado, of Tarapoto, in Peru, with seven companions, had descended the Madre de Dios into the Mamoré, and that though the leader and three others were drowned in the dangerous rapids called the Calderao do Inferno, the remainder continued the voyage down the Madeira into the Amazon."——A correspondent of the London *Athenæum* has discovered in a copy of the Lyons edition of the "Cosmographia" of Hylacomylus, published in 1514, a map which is the earliest known upon which the name America appears. The new world is represented by a large island in the "Oceanus Occidental," and across it is engraved "America noviter reperta." Heretofore it has been supposed that the most ancient map on which the name appears is the "Typus Orbis," printed at Vienna in 1520.

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[1] Edited by ELLIS H. YARNALL, Philadelphia.

## MICROSCOPY.[2]

MICROGRAPHIC TRACINGS.—In many physiological tracings it has been thought that some of the curves supposed to be of significance may possibly have been the result of oscillations of the lever. It seemed, therefore, to M. Marey, desirable to remove this doubt, and to demonstrate the fidelity of the instruments by showing that identical tracings may be obtained by other instruments which cannot be affected by this cause. This result has been attained by making the scale of record extremely small. If, for instance, the tracings of a sphygmograph are five (5) millimeters high, it is possible that the lever may, in its rapid movement, go too far before the friction arrests it. If, however, the amplitude of the movement is reduced to one-tenth ($\frac{1}{10}$), the effect of the momentum of the lever will be reduced to one-hundredth ($\frac{1}{100}$, the square root) of that which it possessed in the former case. But in order to preserve the form of the trace, the surface on which the lever writes must move very slowly, not more than one (1) millimeter per second. The details of the

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[1] R. G. S. Journal, Vol. XXXVII, p. 137.

[2] This department is edited by Dr. R. H. WARD, Troy, N. Y.